From: Kelly Tornow
To: Heather Baker
Subject: FW: NC Insider for Jan. 14, 2026
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 12:03:17 AM

From: NC Insider <ncinsider@stateaffairs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 12:03:07 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)
To: Kelly Tornow <ktornow@email.wcu.edu>
Subject: NC Insider for Jan. 14, 2026

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Read Online

Legislative Building

Reps. Larry Potts, Donny Lambeth and Donna McDowell White listen during a meeting of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid on Jan. 13, 2026. (Credit: Avi Bajpai)

YOU DON'T SAY

“I do think it makes the budget talks more of a mess because this puts another pretty large variable into our discussions.”

IN TODAY'S INSIDER

$420 million at stake in NC over SNAP benefit error rate

Changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program could leave North Carolina responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars because of its payment error rate, although early data shows the state is making progress. Effective October 2027, states could be required to cover the share of food benefits costs — not just the administrative expenses — for their payment error rates...

Medicaid Changes: A top budget writer in the House said Tuesday that he doesn't see how North Carolina can meet the federal government's end-of-year deadline to prepare for, implement and financially support the changes to Medicaid passed by Congress last year...

Campaign Contributions: An investigation by the North Carolina State Board of Elections found that two contributions by lobbyists to Rep. Sarah Stevens' state Supreme Court campaign were illegal, but said they did not represent an "intentional violation."

Elections Updates: In a heated meeting punctuated by a student protest, the North Carolina State Board of Elections on Tuesday voted against including some Sunday voting opportunities and on-campus voting sites...

Firearm Safety: Billy Lassiter, deputy secretary with the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, will talk about firearm safety with anyone willing to listen...

Elon Law: Elon University said Tuesday that it has applied to the American Bar Association for approval to launch a full-time, 2.5-year law school in Charlotte...

Asheville Recovery: The city of Asheville may have to cough up $17 million in disaster recovery money set aside for affordable housing as the state's homeowner repair program faces a funding gap...

Cary Manager: Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman and Cary Police Chief Terry Sult have requested that state investigators open a formal probe into allegations of misuse of Cary town funds...

Republican Primary: Michele Morrow has already won a Republican primary in North Carolina when few expected it — and she's betting she can do it again...

ADDITIONAL REPORTING

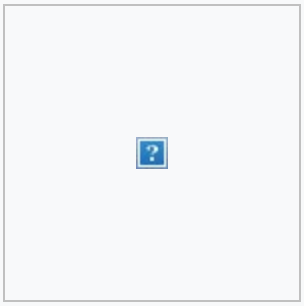
School Cellphones | NCDHHS Petition | Stokes Data Center | Novant Lawyer | Newton Grove Resignation | Jet Prototype | Shooting Appeal | Festival Pause | Campus Health | Brooklyn Bojangles | and more...

READ TODAY'S INSIDER

PLURIBUS NEWS

Lawmakers push for data center regulations amid AI boom

(*State Affairs National*) State legislators have introduced around 100 bills aimed at regulating data centers this year, as tech companies expand the footprint of the facilities housing the computing power for artificial intelligence. Bills are set to be considered in states including Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Vermont and Virginia...



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